(b)INSAT-ID is currently providing space based operational service to the country in the areas of Telecommunications Broadcasting and Meteorology. National telecommunications and TV networking, Radio networking, Disaster Warning and Remote Areas communications are some of the gainful uses of this Satellite.

INSAT-ID has been serving the country since its launch in June, 1990 and is expected to serve for its design life till 1998.

Amendment to the Minimum Wages Act

70. SHRI RAMASHARY PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the judgement given by the Supreme Court on October 31, 1991 in the case of the Workmen versus the Management of Reptakos Brett and Co.Ltd.;

(b) whether in view of the judgement the Government propose to amend the Minimum Wages Act

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DUPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR(SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The Supreme Court in the judgement given on 31st October, 1991 in Civil Appeal No. 4336(NL) of 1991 in the case of the Workmen versus the Management of Retakos Brett and Company Ltd. held that the Tribunal was not justified in abolishing the slab system of DA which was operating in the Company for almost thirty years. While allowing the appeal of the workmen and setting aside the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Madras and the judgements of the High Court, the Supreme Court further rejected and declined the reference of the Company on the issue of restructuring of the Deamess Allowance. While considering the main issues the Supreme Court also deliberated on the norms for fixing minimum wages and expressed the view that in addition to the existing five norms which were accepted by the Tripartite Committee of the Indian labour Conference the following sixth component needs to be added as a guide for fixing minimum wage in the industry: "children education, medical requirement, minimum re-creation including festivals/ceremonies and provision for old age, marriages etc. should further constitute 25% of the total minimum wage".

(b) to (d). The norms for fixation of minimum wages do not form a part of the Minimum Wages Act. As such no amendment of the Act is required.

[*Translation*]

Losses Incurred by Fertilizer Factories at Barauni and Sindri

71. SH. BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizer factories based at Barauni and and Sindri in Bihar are proposed to be closed down by the Government because they are running in losses;

(b) whether thousand of workers are likely to become jobless due to closing of these units and whether it will affect adversely the agriculture in the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to take corrective steps to reduce the losses in the above said factories; and

(d) id so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No such decision has been taken.